

1000+ Signatures for Safe Staffing at UVMHC

When UVMHC President Eileen Whalen refused to meet with Nurses, Techs and LNAs over the current staffing crisis, members decided to deliver over 1000 signatures to Ms. Whalen on Patrick 3.

The VFNHP delegation was met by two Human Resource administrators who listened to the demands on the petition, but refused to take the signatures. The petition states:

We the undersigned LNAs, Nurses, Technical Professional and UVM Medical Center staff know that the key to quality, safe patient care is proper staffing. In particular, we know that LNAs are the key to safe patient care in the hospital. In order to maintain safe staffing and to attract and retain LNAs we call on UVM Medical Center administration to:

Staff each unit and outpatient clinic fully with Nurses, Technical Professionals, LNAs and other support staff. This includes agreeing to VFNHP's proposal to staff to maximum patient capacity

Establish real, enforceable, safe LNA to patient ratios

Raise the minimum rate for LNAs to \$15 per hour, and increase all current LNA wages by a minimum of 10%

Ensure safe working conditions for LNAs and all staff and end mandatory floating

Urgent pay for LNAs, Technical Professionals and all staff.

Recognize and negotiate with LNAs as equals when a majority choose to organize without spending patient care dollars on union-busting

The administration's initial response is that they will block LNAs from organizing a union of just LNAs (and Unit Secretaries).

Next Steps: LNAs are signing union membership/ authorization cards to prove their majority.

If the administration fails to take the current crisis seriously, VFNHP is committed building a public campaign about the current staffing crisis and how the low pay and high turnover of LNAs contributes to the care crisis—and about the administration's refusal to let the LNAs join together with Nurses and Techs.

